



Historical Fiction



Shelved in YA
fiction and/or YA
Paperbacks

Asia

Bass, L.G.

Sign of the Qin

In long-ago China, Prince Zong, the mortal young Starlord chosen to save humankind from destruction, joins the twin outlaws, White Streak and Black Whirlwind, to fight the Lord of the Dead and his demon hordes.

McCaughrean, Geraldin

The Kite Rider

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a bad second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

Namioka, Lensey

An Ocean Apart, A World Away: a Novel (Both China and United States)

Despite the odds facing her decision to become a doctor in 1920's Nanking, China, teenager Yanyan leaves her family to study at Cornell where she finds prejudice and loneliness as well as friendship and a sense of accomplishment.

Napoli, Donna

Bound

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she might marry well.

Canada

Lawrence, Iain

B for Buster

In the spring of 1943, sixteen-year-old Kak, desperate to escape his abusive parents, lies about his age to enlist in the Canadian Air Force and soon finds himself based in England as part of a crew flying bombing raids over Germany

Slade, Arthur

Dust

Eleven-year-old Robert is the only one who can help when a mysterious stranger arrives, performing tricks and promising to bring rain, at the same time children begin to disappear from a dust bowl farm town in Saskatchewan in the 1930s.

Sullivan, Paul

Maata's Journal: a Novel

Stranded on an island during a mapping expedition in 1924, a seventeen-year-old Inuit girl writes about her life on the tundra and the changes brought about by the Europeans who settled Canada.

France

Bradley, Kimberly

For Freedom: The story of a French spy

Despite the horrors of World War II, a French teenager pursues her dream of becoming an opera singer, which takes her to places where she gains information about what the Nazis are doing--information that the French Resistance needs.

Pietri, Annie Orange

The Orange Trees of Versailles

In the 1670s, fourteen-year-old Marion, who has a talent for making perfumes, gets the chance to serve Louis XIV's mistress at the palace of Versailles, where she gets caught up in palace intrigue.

Sauerwein, Leigh

Song for Eloise

In twelfth-century France, fifteen-year-old Eloise, newly and unhappily married to the rough, ambitious, much older but devoted Robert of Rochefort, finds it difficult to adjust to her new life and unwisely falls in love with the young troubadour who comes to sing at her husband's castle.

Great Britain

Bray, Libba

A Great and Terrible Beauty

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Cadnum, Michael

Ship of Fire

In 1587, sailing to Spain on board Sir Francis Drake's ship, seventeen-year-old surgeon's apprentice Thomas Spyre finds that, with the death of his master, he must take over as ship's surgeon and prove his skill not only as a doctor but also as a fighter when he is enlisted by Drake to face battle.

Hassinger, Peter W.

Shakespeare's Daughter

Susanna Shakespeare yearns to travel to London like her father, to experience the world of actors and poets and to follow her own dream of singing, a path usually followed only by men.

Morpurgo, Michael

Turnbull, Ann

Wrede, Cynthia

Italy

Hawes, Louise

Huston, Kimberley

Scotland

McNaughton, Janet

Morgan, Nicola

Yolen, Jane

United States

Anderson, Laurie

Cadnum, Michael

Crist-Evans, Craig

Donnelly, Jennifer

Krisher, Trudy

Lasky Kathryn

Meyer, Louis

Rees Celia

Private Peaceful

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.

No Shame, No Fear

In England in 1662, a time of religious persecution, fifteen-year-old Susanna, a poor country girl and a Quaker, and seventeen-year-old William, a wealthy Anglican, meet and fall in love against all odds.

The Grand Tour

In 1817, two English cousins take a honeymoon "Grand Tour of the Continent" with their new husbands and become entangled in a mysterious plot to create a magical Emperor of Europe.

The Vanishing Point: a story of Lavinia Fontana

In Italy, a young girl of Bologna worked in her father's all-male painting studio and came to enjoy more fame than any female artist before her.

Dante's Daughter

In fourteenth-century Italy, Antonia, the daughter of Dante Alighieri, longs for a stable family and home while developing her artistic talent and seeking a place for herself in a world with limited options for women.

An Earthly Knight

In 1162 in Scotland, sixteen-year-old Jenny Avenel falls in love with the mysterious Tam Lin while being courted by the king's brother and must navigate the tides of tradition and the power of ancient magic to define her own destiny.

Fleshmarket

In nineteenth-century Scotland, following the death of his mother, Robbie decides to get revenge on the surgeon who performed the operation, Dr. Robert Knox, and in the process, makes a discovery about the lengths the medical profession will go to advance its knowledge of anatomy.

Prince across the water

In 1746, a year after the Scottish clans have rallied to the call of their exiled prince, Charles Stuart, to take up arms against England's tyranny, fourteen-year-old, Duncan and his cousin, Ewan, run away to join the fight at Culloden and discover the reality of war.

Fever, 1793 (Colonial Period)

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Blood gold (19th Century)

After an arduous journey, Will and his friend Ben finally reach California in 1849 intending to bring home the man who betrayed the honor of a girl back home in Philadelphia, but find themselves tempted by the riches of the Gold Rush.

Amaryllis (Vietnam era)

Jimmy and his older brother Frank share a love of surfing and their problems with a drunken father, until Frank turns eighteen and goes to Vietnam.

A Northern Light (20th Century)

In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest.

Uncommon Faith (19th Century)

In 1837-38, residents of Millbrook, Massachusetts, speak in their different voices of issues of their day, including women's rights, slavery, religious differences, and one girl named Faith.

Beyond the Burning Time (Colonial Period)

When, in the winter of 1691, accusations of witchcraft surface in her small New England village, twelve-year-old Mary Chase fights to save her mother from execution.

Curse of the blue tattoo (19th Century)

In 1803, after being exposed as a girl and forced to leave her ship, Jacky Faber finds herself attending school in Boston, where, instead of learning to be a lady, she battles her snobbish classmates, roams the city in search of adventure, and learns to ride a horse.

Sorceress (Colonial Period)

Eighteen-year-old Agnes, a Mohawk Indian who is descended from a line of shamanic healers, uses her own newly-discovered power to uncover the story of her ancestor, a seventeenth-century New England English healer who fled charges of witchcraft to make her life with the local Indians.